A TRUE ACCOUNT OF AN ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN An *ENGLISH* and *FRENCH* Man of WAR:

AND

Of the Taking the said *Frenchman*, of 36 Guns, by Captain *BOCKENHAM*.

34 May 1690

SIR,

SINCE my last, dated at the *Groyne*, our Ship the *Happy Return*, safe arrived at *Cales*, where I am in good health. But in our Voyage we have had a Rencounter with a *French* Man of War of 36 Guns, which we took, and brought into *Cales*, to the great rejoicing of all the Merchants here, to whom she had done much mischief; which hath brought a great deal of Reputation to our Captain, *William Bockenham*. We first perceived this *Frenchman* on *Easter-Eve*, when we were with the rest of the Fleet, designed for the *Streights*; at that time under the Command of Captain *Leighton* of *Warlesborough*, near the Coast of *Portugal*, (the Refuge of these Pyrates); That Night we lost sight of her, but re-took a Prize she had

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had taken; our Captain ſtayed behind the reſt of the Fleet, to try if he could meet with her the next day, which he very luckily did, and preſently put up his *French* Colours, (the better to decoy the Enemy) which occaſioned the *Frenchman* to ſtay for us; but before we could come up with him, he took Two *Engliſh* Merchants Ships, (one of 16 Guns) before our faces. Our Captain left the Merchant-Men, and gave Chaſe to the *French* Man; who when he perceived what we were, made all the Sail he could to get from us; but we were pretty near him at night, when we had a ſmall Skirmiſh; we lay as near as we could to him that Night, and plyed him as cloſe as might be next Morning, who made a Running Fight all that day; next day we had a hotter Skirmiſh, but the *French* Man making uſe of his Oars, we could not get ſo near him as we wiſht for; he kept us in play Three days, and ſometimes came to very hot Engagements: But at length (when he could do no more, having many Men kill'd, and all his Ammunition ſpent) he yielded, having behaved himſelf as well as 'twas poſſible for man to do, and was received by our Captain with a great deal of Reſpect. We had all our Sails and Rigging ſhot to Rags; our Main-Top-Maſt ſhot through; we had but Four Men kill'd, and Six or Seven wounded, tho we kill'd and wounded of the *French*, (as we conjectur'd) 60 or 70 Men; they had killed us more Men, but that their chief aim was at our Rigging. I am extremely glad of my worthy Captain's good Fortune, and ſo are all that know him. We took about 120 or 130 Priſoners; the *Frenchman* had on Board, when he left *France*, 240 Men. Let this ſuffice at preſent from, &c.

April 27. 1690.
From on Board the
Happy Return.

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